



IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A waterproofed breathable sole for shoes, comprising a tread made of leather or similar breathable and water-permeable material, which is covered at least partially in an upward region by a membrane made of a material that is breathable and waterproof and is joined perimetrically to the tread by way of a screen-printed sealing ring made of a solution or dispersion of polymer that has a dry residue of at least 60% by weight with the addition of setting agents.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 21, wherein said waterproof and vapor-permeable membrane is made of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 21, wherein said waterproof and vapor-permeable membrane is supportless, and is provided with thicknesses between 5 and 40 microns.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 21, wherein said membrane is spaced perimetrically from the edge of said tread.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The sole according to claim 21, wherein said membrane is fixed to said tread by way of adhesive applied in spots.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A method for manufacturing a sole as set forth in claim 21, comprising:

preparing a frame that comprises, at least at perimetric regions of the membrane for the sole that are located in selected position on the tread, a fabric with a mesh that is sufficiently wide to allow the passage of a solution or dispersion of polymer that has a dry residue of at least 60% by weight with the addition of setting agents;

arranging said membrane on said tread;

placing said tread and said membrane under said frame, pouring said solution or dispersion of polymer onto said frame, and making it penetrate through the mesh of said frame, forming at least one layer of a sealing ring;

removing the assembly constituted by the tread, the membrane and the ring; and
drying the assembly.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 36, wherein said solution or dispersion of polymer that has a dry residue of approximately 60% by weight is a polyurethane solution or dispersion.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, comprising addition to said solution or dispersion of polyurethane polymer that has a dry residue of approximately 60% by weight of cross-linking agents.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein said cross-linking agents are catalyzed isocyanates.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, comprising a heating step, after the forming of said ring, in order to accelerate the cross-linking of said solution or dispersion of polymer.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 30, wherein said heating is performed substantially at 60-80°C.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, comprising a preliminary application, to said tread, of adhesion promoters constituted by dispersions or solutions of polyurethane polymers having a low viscosity, such as to be capable of penetrating through the fibers of said leather.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, consisting of the preliminary application, to said tread, of polyurethanes having a low relative molecular mass in a solution or dispersion.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 33, comprising addition to said polyurethanes, having a low relative molecular mass in solution or dispersion, of cross-linking agents.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 34, wherein said cross-linking agents are catalyzed isocyanates.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, comprising, prior to the arrangement of said membrane on said frame, covering by a photoengraving technique the regions of said frame that are to be left uncovered by said solution or dispersion of polymer.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 36, wherein said regions covered by photoengraving are the regions subsequently covered by said membrane, except for the regions that correspond to its edges.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 36, wherein the step of arrangement of said membrane on said tread also comprises the gluing of said membrane, treated beforehand with spots of glue, to said tread.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 38, wherein said gluing is performed by way of hot pressing.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 26, comprising facilitation of the penetration of said solution or dispersion of polymer through the mesh of said frame through action of a doctor.